

## HOUSE RESOLUTION 83

By Carr

### A RESOLUTION to honor Sergeant Nicholas Ranstad of the United States Army.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the Volunteer State have, throughout the years, willingly forsaken the comforts and securities of inaction by taking up arms against the enemies of this great Nation, risking their lives and leaving their loved ones behind to honorably safeguard the freedoms and liberties guaranteed to all citizens of these United States and vanquishing those who threaten our way of life; and

WHEREAS, one such exemplary individual is Sergeant Nicholas Ranstad of the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, following in the patriotic tradition for which our nation's finest sons and daughters are renowned, Sergeant Ranstad is a brave and honorable member of the 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne, who fought valiantly in the Hindu Kush Mountains of the Kunar Province, Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, on January 2, 2008, Sergeant Ranstad was on assignment manning a checkpoint that prevented the transportation of supplies to the enemy militia on the border with Pakistan; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Ranstad was called to action when four enemy insurgents were sighted 2,100 meters away; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Ranstad took a position with his Barrett M107 .50-caliber rifle, and targeted one of the insurgents while also skillfully observing a secondary target; and

WHEREAS, having received orders to fire, he engaged his target and missed; and

WHEREAS, he quickly switched his attention to the secondary target and fired, and within four seconds his target was eliminated; and

WHEREAS, the three remaining enemy soldiers took cover behind a massive boulder; Sergeant Ranstad, aware of an American Apache helicopter in the area, continued firing at the boulder to keep the enemy contained; and

WHEREAS, the pilot could visualize the rounds hitting the boulder and took action with her 30mm cannon and missiles that resulted in the termination of the remaining three enemies; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Ranstad's remarkable shooting, accomplished in true Army sniper fashion with his Tennessee-crafted Barrett M107 .50 caliber rifle, is an United States Army record for distance; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Ranstad holds the United States record for the longest confirmed kill sniper shot; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Ranstad's courageous service is an inspiration to us all and has been reported in numerous magazines and television shows; and

WHEREAS, this valiant American presents an indelible legacy of integrity and honor in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Ranstad's dedication to excellence in the military and his love of family, his fellow soldiers, and his country, are exemplified in his defense of all that he holds dear. Sergeant Ranstad's bravery stands as an enduring example of the characteristics that have ensured the continued freedom of our nation and the preservation of its ideals over the course of our history; and

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly should pause to recognize the singular patriotism, courage, and commitment to duty of this exceptional soldier and human being, Sergeant Nicholas Ranstad of the United States Army; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor Sergeant Nicholas Ranstad, a man of impeccable character and limitless courage, for stalwartly committing himself to the defense of his nation as a member of the United States Army.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.